

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/895,331**
Response filed May 23, 2005
Reply to OA dated February 24, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 6-16 are pending in this application, with claims 6 and 7 currently withdrawn from consideration. No amendment is made in this Response. It is believed that this Response is fully responsive to the Office Action dated **February 24, 2005**.

Claims 1 and 8-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Takeda (JP2000-108289).

Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks.

Applicant has previously argued that Takeda does not disclose the limitations of the independent claim 1 that:

(i) The active hydrogen atom containing groups are selected from the group consisting of a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, and an amino group.

(ii) The water-borne polyurethane resin (A) contains at least 0.005 to 0.2 equivalent of the hydrophilic groups per 100 parts by weight of the finally obtained polyurethane resin.

(iii) The aqueous dry laminate adhesive composition comprises a colorant (D) constituted by water dispersible pigments, wherein a pigment's surface is coated with a water dispersible resin.

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Independent claim 8 also has limitation (ii); independent claim 11 has limitation (iii); independent claim 14 has limitation (i). These limitations are also recited in some of the dependent claims.

In addition, Applicant submits that Takeda does not disclose the feature of the present claims that "said thickener (C) is an association polymer surface active agent." This is recited in independent claims 1, 8, 11 and 14.

An association type thickener can provide Newtonian viscosity to a compounded solution, and therefore, when artificial leather or synthetic leather is produced using the thickener, excellent coating is obtained since suitable coating properties, working properties for coating, and the like, are achieved. This effect is not obtained if an alkali added type acrylic thickener, such as Voncoat HV, which is a product manufactured by Dainippon Ink and Chemicals, Inc., is used.

Applicant has attached a Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132, by Shingo TAKEDA, presenting the results of a viscosity evaluation experiment demonstrating this point. This Declaration was also submitted in response to the Office action dated April 29, 2005, in parent application 10/238,584.

In the presented experiment, the viscosity of a compounded solution of example 1 of the present application was evaluated. From the results of this viscosity evaluation experiment, it is clear that a compounded solution containing an association type thickener has Newtonian viscosity, since the viscosity change of the compounded solution is not large. This effect is not seen when Voncoat HV, an alkali added type acrylic thickener, is used. Applicant therefore further submits that there are unexpected effects associated with the use of the "association polymer surface active agent" as thickener (C) in the present claims.

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Claims 1 and 8-16 are therefore not anticipated by, and are not obvious over, Takeda (JP2000-108289).

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned agent at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attachment: Declaration under 37 CFR 1.132 (3 pages)